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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1909.

THE FOOTBALL TRAGEDY.

The feelings of the whole community are profoundly stirred by the death of young Archer Christian, of this city, as the result of injuries received at football on Saturday afternoon. Very abundantly do the sympathies of all of us go out to the parents of the dead youth, taken from them with such stunning and tragic suddenness. One afternoon he goes gaily into the game of which he was a master, the mainstay of his team, a fine specimen of physical manhood, as gallant, eager and stout-hearted a lad as could be found anywhere. Early the next morning he is lying dead. The shocking sense of this swift sequence goes beyond the immediate family and friends, beyond the city, beyond the State. All over the country to-day people will be strongly condemning a game which can make such short work of so strong and promising a life.

Here in Richmond and Virginia this question of football comes home to us again with a new and sudden sharpness. It is one thing to read of a player killed at football in Seattle or in Annapolis or in West Point. It is quite another when the player lives in the next street or the next block, and many of us have watched him grow up from the cradle. Following so close upon the death of Cadet Byrne, the cumulative effect of this second tragedy upon public sentiment will be too strong to resist. It happens that the two cases bear a close resemblance to each other. In both the fatal injuries were received in a mass play. It has been often argued, with much justice, that the open style of play was at least as dangerous as the close formations. These two tragedies do not at all bear out that argument. A further favorite argument has been that serious injuries happen only to the unskilful or the physically unfit. To this argument both of these cases make a terrible answer. Both players were young men of fine physique and exceptional skill. Archer Christian, in especial, was of superb build, in the pink of condition, glowing with strong young health and an adept among a hundred.

A game that can so easily destroy such lives as these cannot go on. It isn't worth it. We can find other ways of developing many qualities in our young men at less deadly a cost. Many a mother will think this morning with a sudden cold clutch at her heart-strings that it might have been her son and that maybe it will be her son next. For football, as at present played, this new tragedy must be the beginning of the end. This does not mean that football must be abolished. But it does mean that the game must be entirely made over by radical changes, which, while preserving its many good points, will definitely eliminate the methods of play which pave the way to such sobering and lamentable results as these.

THE STATE'S BUSINESS AS BUSINESS.

Every business man knows that antiquated methods are the worst enemies of financial accuracy. A book-keeping system that works admirably where one clerk handles the accounts of a small firm is often inadequate where a half-hundred men are auditing the books of a large corporation. The man who attempts to keep accurate accounts must enlarge and modify his system as his business grows.

This applies to a State as well as to a private firm, for, after all, financial offices are created as public safeguards rather than as political sinecures. The same vigilance, the same uniformity and the same accuracy that apply to a banking house should apply to a State. There is no more excuse for slipshod methods in the one than in the other. Both should be conducted in the most scientific and modern fashion.

Captain McCarthy's report makes it perfectly apparent that this is not the case with the present system in Virginia. In fact, the recommendations made by the legislative committee on the strength of what the accountant found, leave us to infer that the safety of the State's funds is due more to the absolute integrity of the men in charge than to the merits of the Auditor's system. The methods employed are freely criticized, and the necessity of change was clearly shown when the Governor instructed Captain McCarthy to open a new set of books in the Second Auditor's office.

This is clearly a step in the right direction. But why should reform stop here? When different methods complicate affairs, and when varying systems confuse the State's bonded officials, why should not a plan be adopted that will simplify and unify the business of the State? Uniform book-keeping is doubtless not an easy matter for so scattered a business, but it is no less a necessity for so large a trust.

ROSENEATH ROAD AND THE FUTURE.

In another column this morning a correspondent argues that the Confederate Memorial should not be placed at Roseneath Road because that street of

the future at present is narrower than the Boulevard, does not cross Broad Street, and is, he says, three-fourths of a mile from a trolley. If the memorial were being built to stand for a year, like an exposition building, his argument would be unanswerable. Since it is being built to stand through generation after generation, however, his argument is answered very easily. In fact, he answers it himself.

It seems to us that our correspondent's reference to the Lee Monument was, for the purposes of his contention, a little unfortunate. It is exactly in the analogy of the Lee Monument that we feel so little hesitation in recommending an extreme westerly site for this new and even greater memorial. The Lee statue was placed, as our correspondent says, in unimproved and uninviting surroundings, well beyond the city limits. That was not so many years ago. Yet look at the statue to-day. It is the centre of the handsomest residence avenue in Richmond. If any one thinks now that a mistake was made in placing this monument, we have yet to hear him express that opinion. To us it seems that time has justified the wisdom and foresight of those who placed it there in the fullest and most triumphant way. In just the same way it will justify the carrying of the Confederate Memorial to a site not so far off as the Lee site was twenty years ago. Just as the growth of Richmond has transformed the open fields around Lee Monument into a beautiful boulevard, flanked by fine houses, so it will transform in just the same way the open spaces around Roseneath Road. Richmond has not stopped growing. It is destined to sweep out to this road and far beyond it, improving and beautifying as it goes. And the trolley cars will follow the population as surely as night follows day.

The Councilmen meet to-night to consider all these and other points connected with this very important matter. We ask of them only that they will take their responsibility seriously, as it must be taken, and will vote with a full understanding of all the facts. To us it has long seemed clear that the Roseneath site offers all that the Boulevard site offers, and much more besides. Nor does any argument based on the apparent impression that the Confederate Memorial is built for the immediate present only, or that Richmond is a dead city, destined to grow no more, in this world, shake this belief in the least.

THE TOLL OF THE MINES.

The mind recoils with a kind of black and hopeless horror from such a disaster as this at the Cherry Mine. It is sad enough to read of brutal midnight murders, of dismembered bodies found in lonely woods, of shipwreck and of lynchings. But it is infinitely more harrowing to read the details of how 400 men fought in darkness against oncoming flames, gasped along gloomy cold veins for a breath of air, fought madly far down in the earth to reach a shaft, and died like rats in a trap when the fan collapsed and the cage stopped.

But this disaster is only one page in the long chronicle which has turned "mine disaster" into a fixed phrase. Since the turn of the century fully 4,500 men have died in mines in order that their fellows might have fuel. For every day that has passed since 1900 began a man has died in some mine horror, with two men lost on every third day. Practically every country in the mining world has suffered. For the 393 that perished at Monongah, Japan lost 470 at Tokio and Germany 329 at Hamm. The toll of the mines knows no country.

If cunning science can conceive any remedy, if skilled engineers can devise any additional safeguard, every civilized nation should immediately seize and insist upon them. Of course, fire-damp cannot be overcome. Where there is coal there is always fire-damp; where fire-damp is found, and is exposed to the air, ignition is easy. The protection of the miner's day is small when the fatal damp is allowed to accumulate.

But there is certainly room for improvement in the ventilation systems and in the construction of the interior timbers. Only too frequently, in recent disasters, has there been the sad announcement that "the fans failed." Only too often do the bulletins declare that the timbers within the mine burned like tinder. Public sentiment is demanding a change in these conditions; slow-burning construction and duplicate or triplicate ventilating systems must be devised. Civilization will no longer permit this useless sacrifice of helpless men.

PRESIDENT TAFT'S TROUBLES.

Kindly Mr. Taft returns from his round of agreeable speech-making and hospitable dinners to face a sea of troubles, some of which are too strong to be smoothed away by his famous smile. The great conspiracy to irreconcilable "back from Elba" movement, will hardly keep him awake of nights just now. The elements in his own situation which have to do with the Policies of the absent one have been familiar to him all along. But returning to Washington now, he finds a very awkward little crisis awaiting him, and it is quite possible, as he is fully aware, that his method of dealing with it may have far-reaching results.

This is, of course, the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, which has just broken out again with increased virulence. The fresh Glavis charges against Ballinger, published in a weekly periodical the other day, have added little meat to the controversy. In this part of the world they have fallen extremely flat. In the West they will take harder, and the West is strong for Pinchot and for Roosevelt. The publication has naturally widened the breach between the Interior Depart-

ment and the Forestry Service, since Pinchot is supposed to be back of Glavis. Ballinger has denounced it as a "tissue of falsehoods," which hardly makes for amiable relations. At the time when Ballinger received his indorsement from the President and Glavis was thrown out, we expressed the view that the Interior Department could hardly go on as a happy family on those terms. The patching up of a temporary truce made it look as if this view was mistaken. But it appears to have been sound after all. In Washington the feeling is rapidly growing that either Ballinger or Pinchot must go, and that speedily.

But which? There's the rub. On the basis of a cold calculation of effects, the axe would unhesitatingly fall on Ballinger. However defensible all his acts in connection with the Cunniffham grants may be, he is neither a necessary man nor a particularly popular man. He could be dismissed without raising any dangerous howl of insurrection. But President Taft cannot dismiss Ballinger if he would. He has already heard the full case against Ballinger, pronounced him guiltless and warmly indorsed him. This clearly indicates Pinchot for the guillotine. But Pinchot is one of the most popular officials in the government service. He happens to be regarded as a kind of living embodiment of the Roosevelt policies, a genuine Roosevelt legatee. It needs no argument to show to what uses his dismissal could be put by the armies of rabid Rooseveltites in the country.

To these Mr. Taft has already given footholds by his stand on various matters. He himself is responsible for the belief that he stands with the so-called reactionary element in his party, which in the last administration was the anti-Roosevelt wing. He has praised Aldrich as a friend of the people, warmly praised the Payne-Aldrich act, all but "read out" the insurgents. Even the dismissal of Minister Crane muck-raking gossip vaguely connects with the desires of high finance. It is certain, at any rate, that the whole story of the Crane incident has never been published.

It is out of materials such as this, with Pinchot conspicuous in the foreground, that the "conspiracy" story has grown. Undoubtedly belief in the existence of a Roosevelt propaganda, not prompted, countenanced or even known of by Mr. Roosevelt himself, has gained headway since the idea was first suggested. Visions of a grand restoration in 1912 are already horribly afflicting the dreams of some. The New York Sun is making a desperate effort to connect the Sugar Trust rotteness with the Roosevelt administration. John Parsons being counsel for the trust, and his son, Herbert Parsons, being regarded as a Roosevelt satrap. Blinded by bitter hate, the Sun is unable to see that if it proved all this and more, it would not have the smallest effect with the idolaters. When you come to think of it, it is rather a waste of time to try to argue with frenetic enthusiasm such as this.

Mr. Taft has our sympathy in his grapple with these problems, some tangible and real, some intangible, but possibly real, too. If the "conspiracy" idea ever gets strong enough to notice there is a very effective way in which he can meet it, as the Springfield Republican points out. He has only to take his cue from the famous "Taft or Me" ultimatum of eighteen months ago. By shouting: "Do this, or you'll get Roosevelt in 1912," the President can rally the ants to his support more swiftly and surely than the decapitation of Pinchot would rally the true worshippers.

Our corps of little research-workers reports that it requires at least \$200,000 a year to get firmly established in the refined, rubber-tired divorce set. Mrs. Pankhurst's work in America may be said to be done now that Richmond has gone in for suffragettes. There never was a law-making body in the world that could resist an appeal from our little star-eyed blondes.

It is barely possible, however, that the determined ignoring of Senator Cummings across the border into Virginia has perhaps set the people of Tazewell thinking. The object lesson afforded by Republican domination in West Virginia may have caused a change of mind in a number of the Tazewell people who have hitherto voted the Republican ticket. We hope that Tazewell will yet return to the faith of the fathers and repudiate the party of abominable vote-buying and disenchantedness—Petersburg Virginian.

Slump Is Truly Optimistic. Representative Bascom Slump, Republican of Virginia, is credited by a correspondent with the statement that he will vote in the State for the Republicans with the hope that the Republicans may in a few years make the State of Virginia solidly Republican. Mr. Slump must be considered a very optimistic nature if he can see anything in the late election that gives grounds for hope of a Republican control in the State, or if his party failed to poll as many votes as in former years. And while the same is true of the State, it is very evident that those Democrats who failed to vote for the candidates of their own party did so with the Republicans—Brookland Sentinel.

Pay Poll Taxes Now. The law requires that poll tax shall be paid not less than six months prior to an election in order that a person be qualified to vote. Suppose there should be an election held in the spring, only those persons who paid their poll tax before December 1 would be eligible to vote. Sometimes there are elections called by the Governor to fill vacancies, and sometimes called to elect a new Governor. As the law stands, you must pay poll tax six months before an election, and set you at your wits' end to deprive yourself of voting on some very important question or election—Carroll Journal.

"How to Become a Cowboy." Some ambitious soul writes to the Richmond Times-Dispatch asking for a list of the duties of a cowboy. The author devotes half a column of instruction. If the young man in question is really in earnest, he will give his personal instruction gratis in learning how to milk and feed a cow in long practice on his part in the gentle art of abominable vote-buying and disenchantedness—Petersburg Virginian.

All money is more or less "tainted." There is not a single dollar which goes into circulation which is not liable to be put to base uses. The fact is, money is a mere counter on the poker-table of life. It is "tainted money." All "tainted money" has to go somewhere. Why isn't charity the best use to which it can be put?

Much cheap reputation has been gained by different institutions by declining to receive "tainted money." But there is a great deal of cant about the whole business. It might be well enough to let "tainted money" alone if nobody else would touch it, but somebody is sure to get it. The "tainted money" is a very evident. These refusals look too much like illegitimacy to avoid contamination yourself while you rest someone in the consciousness that your brother is not going to be polluted. That is not Christianity—Richmond News.

Richmond merchants know of our expert advertising service. We will place your advertisement for any line of business. Advertising Agency, Inc., 1001 North Main Street, Richmond, Virginia. Established 1904.

Borrowed Jingles

YOU CAN'T LOSE IT.
The months take on their toll of days
And change themselves in years;
I watch them go in vast amazement,
But shed no bitter tears;
For I shall never be bereft
Of all they bring to me.
Oh, one familiar thing is left—
The rent is due again!

It matters not if I am tired
And worn and a little broke;
It matters not if I am fired
And jobs go up in smoke;
And I shall never be bereft
Of all they bring to me.
Oh, one familiar thing is left—
The rent is due again!

Oh, jobs may come and jobs may go
And seasons roll away;
From summer's heat to winter's snow,
From Christmas time to May;
But there is that the years can't haul
From me, and that I shall not lose;
It will abide here after all—
The rent is due again!

—Chicago News.

MERELY JOKING.

Article Approval.
"Did you tell that photographer you didn't want your picture taken?"
"Yes," answered the eminent but uncooperative personage.
"Did he take offense?"
"No. He said he didn't blame me."—Washington Star.

Great Luck.
"Are you hurt?" asked the policeman, bending over him.
"I think my collarbone is broken," feebly answered the prostrate automobilist, whose machine had collided with a telegraph pole.
"The officer," in great good luck, growled the officer, "was breakneck speed was going all right!"—Chicago Tribune.

A Masterpiece.
"How do you like the portrait?"
"Critic," faintly the complexion somewhat better.
"Aristocrat," "Ah! that's it. He's a dealer in hides!"—Baltimore American.

Too Late.
Late Woman: "These photographs of myself and husband are not at all satisfactory. I don't like them. I don't like my husband looking like a baboon!"
Photographer: "Well, that's no fault of mine. You should have thought of that before you had him taken."—Chicago Daily News.

Which Way.
"What did you say last night when Jack asked you to marry him?"
"Slidways or up and down?"—Boston Transcript.

The Family Skeleton.
Teacher: "What is your father's occupation?"
Little Boy: "I can't tell you."
Teacher: "But you must."
Little Boy: "My father doesn't want me to tell."
Teacher: "I insist on your telling me. I have to know."
Little Boy: "He's the head of the dime museum."
Teacher's Companion.

THE OBSERVANT PARAGRAPHERS.

ADVICES from Africa are that Colonel Roosevelt is not at all satisfied with the notice in the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times of his visit to the White House.

Taft emphasizes the fact that the dear old man is not at all interested in the White House library—Washington Post.

A man in Park Avenue deserted his bride after four days because she called on him to button her shoes. We shudder to think what might have happened had she asked him to button her dress.—New York Herald.

President Taft is a registered citizen of Augusta, Ga.; Beverly, Mass.; Cincinnati, O.; and Washington, D. C. He is also a citizen of the State of Virginia—Philadelphia Press.

STATE PRESS

Defects in the Road Law?
On Tuesday of last week Alleghany county, Va., voted on the proposition of issuing bonds to the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of building bridges and improving the roads in that district. The result of the election revealed a serious defect in the present law. The voters of Clifton district wanted to assume the burden of the appropriation and voted against the proposition. The voters of the other districts, however, voted for the proposition, notwithstanding the fact that the law provides that the voters of the district in which the bonds are to be used shall vote on the proposition.

In several hitherto Republican strongholds there have been decided swings in favor of the Democrats. In Tazewell county, where the Republican majority was but some 300 votes, the Democrats carried by a margin of 1,000. In Giles county, where the Republican majority was but some 200 votes, the Democrats carried by a margin of 500. In Buchanan county, where the Republican majority was but some 100 votes, the Democrats carried by a margin of 300. In all these counties the voters were asked to vote on the proposition of issuing bonds to the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of building bridges and improving the roads in that district.

It is now no longer the banner Republican county of the Ninth District. The beauty and perfume of the State of Virginia has perhaps set the people of Tazewell thinking. The object lesson afforded by Republican domination in West Virginia may have caused a change of mind in a number of the Tazewell people who have hitherto voted the Republican ticket. We hope that Tazewell will yet return to the faith of the fathers and repudiate the party of abominable vote-buying and disenchantedness—Petersburg Virginian.

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DANES OBJECT TO LORDLY TITLES

Cabinet Will Refuse to Recommend Any Countryman for a Decoration.

"M. R. KING—M. R. QUEEN"

In Norway People Are So Democratic That They Don't Say "Your Majesty."

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.
KING FREDERICK'S new Radical Cabinet, of which the Premier, Zehle, is a village cobbler's son, has not only denounced the title of nobility, but has also indicated that at an early date it will submit to the national legislature measures providing for the abolition in Denmark of all such orders of knighthood, and likewise of nobility titles and hereditary dignities. It is added that until this measure, which meets with very widespread popular approval, becomes a law of the land, the administration will refrain from recommending any citizen for a decoration or for a nobility title. As King Frederick has own titles shown himself to be most ready to accept of things with the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and has agreed to the stipulations made by Prime Minister Zehle and his colleagues, it is not surprising that the Cabinet remains in power. In one word, the so-called "foundations of honor" will run dry until further notice.

This action on the part of the new Radical administration in Copenhagen must not be considered in the light of a mere play to the masses, or as a demagogic bid for popularity. It is not only a principle, but it is a principle of the Danish people care very little for titles or for decorations. Those who are granted titles, and those who are granted decorations, are regarded as a disgrace. In the eyes of the Danish people, the only honor is to be a citizen of the nation. The Danish people care very little for titles or for decorations. Those who are granted titles, and those who are granted decorations, are regarded as a disgrace. In the eyes of the Danish people, the only honor is to be a citizen of the nation.

In Greece, Roumania, Servia and Bulgaria, nobility titles have not only been abolished by law and by the Constitution, but their very use entails punishment. In Greece, Roumania, Servia and Bulgaria, nobility titles have not only been abolished by law and by the Constitution, but their very use entails punishment. In Greece, Roumania, Servia and Bulgaria, nobility titles have not only been abolished by law and by the Constitution, but their very use entails punishment.

Switzerland not long ago had its national legislature enact a law, based on article 12 of the Constitution, to the effect that all members of the Federal Council, of the Federal Assembly, of the army, or holding any government office, must surrender and return orders of knighthood and decorations received from foreign governments during the previous three or four decades, under the penalty of dismissal from office. The law was passed, and the government has since then refused to register any foreign titles conferred upon Swiss citizens, and those obtained since then by French people from any foreign government have been void.

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Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Barbers and the Sunday Law.
Is it contrary to law for barber shops to keep open on Sunday in Richmond? Is the law enforced?

Yes. The law is enforced rigorously.

In the "Big Fire."
In the fire of 1865 was the First National Bank building destroyed?

No. This was one of the few buildings that stood the ravages of the fire.

Legal but Foolish.
Is it legal for a man to make out a check in pencil? INQUIRER.

Yes, but very foolish.

Core-Makers.
Is there a union of core-makers in Richmond? M. A. B.

Yes, a very strong union.

The City's Accountant.
Who is supposed to audit the accounts of the city? READER.

The city has an auditor, a special accountant, and in addition from time to time employs other experts to examine in detail the books of the various departments.

Oldest Newspaper in Virginia.
What is the oldest newspaper in Virginia? A CONSTANT READER.

The Alexandria Gazette is the oldest paper now in existence. The Virginia Gazette, of Williamsburg, was the first paper established in Virginia.

Wide Tires and Mud Roads.
I see a good deal of talk in the papers about the benefits to be derived from the use of wide tires on vehicles used on country roads. Can it be shown that these tires really keep the road from being cut up? FARMER.

To a certain extent, yes; but many contend that the flanges of the wide

tires take up a great deal of the road surface in bad weather.

Marrying at Fifty.
My mother is a widow of fifty years, and has become very much envious of the young girls who marry at twenty-eight. She says she is going to marry him. Can we children, all of her about fifteen years of age, prevent her doing so?

ANXIOUS INQUIRER.
If your mother is of sound mind, you may prevent her from marrying. Moral suasion might prevail where the law cannot.

The Capitol Steps.
When the State Capitol was first planned, did not the design call for the use of steps leading to the Southern front? R. C.

Yes. Jefferson's design, as presented in the State Library, shows these steps very much as they are to-day.

Law of Injunction.
Tell me where I will find the Virginia law of injunction. READER.

This law is laid down in chapter 168 of Pollard's Code.

Treason Against the State.
Against the State? B. L. B.

Most assuredly. There is a statute on this subject in our Virginia law.